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# ILLINOIS LITERACY EFFORT

ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY

JUL 20 1987

**ILLINOIS  
LITERACY  
COUNCIL**

**JIM EDGAR**  
Chairman

**INITIATIVE  
LEADERSHIP  
COOPERATION**



**Secretary of State's Literacy Office  
Illinois State Library  
431 South Fourth Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62756  
(217) 785-6921**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA



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# INITIATIVE

Initiative, leadership and cooperation have placed Illinois in the forefront of the national assault on adult illiteracy.

Committed to the support of a strong and lasting network of adult literacy services in Illinois, Secretary of State and State Librarian Jim Edgar has established a state-funded Literacy Grant Program and a Literacy Office in the Illinois State Library.

## State Literacy Grant Program

The Secretary of State's Literacy Grant Program is the first of its kind in any state. This program provides state funds to **all types** of public and private adult literacy programs which demonstrate:

- A commitment to serving adults over the age of 16 who read below the 6th grade level.
- The use of trained volunteers as tutors and program advocates.
- Coordination and cooperation at the local level with related public agency programs.

## Literacy Office

The Secretary of State's Literacy Office administers the state grant program and coordinates the activities of the Illinois literacy effort. The Literacy Office sponsors statewide conferences, publishes a monthly newsletter, serves as a clearinghouse for information, and provides technical assistance to the network of more than 200 adult literacy programs.

# LEADERSHIP

## Illinois Literacy Council

Chaired by Secretary Edgar, the Illinois Literacy Council is composed of 36 representatives from state agencies, the library and education communities, private foundations, the business sector and community-based organizations.

The Council provides visibility and serves as a forum for discussion and planning. Through public hearings, multi-media campaigns and special events, such as the 1986 **Literacy Weekend**, the Council has raised the level of public awareness concerning adult illiteracy.

Five Council subcommittees focus on major program areas:

- Prevention
- Public and Private Resources
- Public Information
- Training and Methodologies
- Volunteer/Student Recruitment

## Local Literacy Coalitions

Community leadership through local coalitions is crucial to the success of the Illinois literacy effort.

Adult literacy program directors across the state have spearheaded the creation of more than 80 community coalitions. Membership includes both public and private sector interests which have joined forces for effective advocacy and fund-raising.



# COOPERATION

Illinois has developed a diversified network of literacy programs which includes libraries, community colleges, public schools, Laubach Literacy Action councils, Literacy Volunteers of America affiliates, correctional institutions, community-based organizations and alternative schools.

Literacy providers are found in all regions of the state - urban, suburban, and rural. All are committed to cooperation and coordination among themselves and with the various agencies in their communities which provide related services.

At the state level, the Secretary of State's Literacy Office works in close cooperation with:

- Illinois State Board of Education  
Adult Education Section  
Pre-Kindergarten Program  
Truant/Alternative Program
- Illinois Community College Board
- Illinois Department of Corrections  
School District #428
- Illinois Department of Commerce and  
Community Affairs  
JTPA Program Division
- Illinois Department of Public Aid  
Project Chance Program
- Governor's Office of Voluntary Action

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# MATERIALS

The following materials are available through the Secretary of State's Literacy Office:

**Annual Report of the Illinois Literacy Council, 1985.**

**Annual Report of the Illinois Literacy Council, 1986.**

**By-Laws for Local Literacy Coalitions**  
(Selected Samples)

**Bibliography of Adult New Reader Collection.** Compiled by Shawnee Library System. Annotated. 2500 Titles by Grade level.

**Chronology of the Illinois Literacy Effort, 1984 – 1987.**

**Posters, Print Ads and Recruitment Cards.** Targeting volunteers, students and potential drop-out population. Recruitment cards available in Spanish and English.

**Illinois Libraries**  
Volume 67, no.7. Illinois Literacy Effort, September 1985.

Volume 69, no.6. Illinois Literacy Effort Update, to be published in June 1987.

**"Passing the Word" newsletter,**  
March 1985 – Present (monthly).

**Resource Directory of Illinois Literacy Programs,** to be published in June 1987.

**Secretary of State's Literacy Grant Program Information.**  
Rules and Regulations, Application Forms, Enabling Legislation.

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# ILLINOIS LITERACY COUNCIL

*Secretary of State and State Librarian Jim Edgar, Chairman*  
*Rosemary Anderson, The Anderson Company*  
*David Ashenhurst, Private Philanthropy Matters*  
*Gwen Bates, Literacy in Action-DuPage County*  
*Robert Beckwith, Illinois State Chamber of Commerce*  
*Lerone Bennett, Jr., Johnson Publishing Company*  
*Norman L. Braun, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc.*  
*William J. Bryant, Assault on Illiteracy Program*  
*Brian Carey, U.S. Department of Education*  
*Harold Dodd, Illinois Farmer's Union*  
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*Carolyn Laughlin, Washington National Insurance Company*  
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*Jean Peterson, Palatine Public Library*  
*Susan Piha, Illinois Community College Board*  
*Ray Quick, Illinois Department of Corrections*  
*John R. Rosales, Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Chicago*  
*Alexis H. Sarkisian, Global Marketing*  
*Joy Segal, Corporate Parenting Associates*  
*Cynthia M. Smith, Rockford Area Literacy Council*  
*RaeLynne Toperoff, Literacy Volunteers of America, Illinois, Inc.*  
*Reg Weaver, Illinois Education Association*  
*Valerie J. Wilford, Illinois Valley Library System*  
*Ex-officio members:*  
*Ted Sanders, State Superintendent of Education, Illinois State Board of Education*  
*Joan Y. Seamon, Coordinator, Illinois Literacy Effort*

## ILLINOIS LITERACY HOTLINE

# 1-800-321-9511

**Linking Volunteers and Students With Programs**

**Hotline numbers for neighboring states:**

Indiana — 1-800-624-7585

Missouri — 1-800-521-READ

Wisconsin — 1-800-472-0024